UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

November 23, 1963

Honorable James J. Rowley
Chief, U. S. Secret Service
Washington, D. C. 20220

Dear Mr. Rowley:

There are enclosed the results of our inquiry into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and background information relative to Lee Harvey Oswald.

Additional information with respect to this matter will be furnished to you when available.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure

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In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

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ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
DALLAS, TEXAS, NOVEMBER 22, 1963

President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed by an unknown assailant at approximately 12:30 p.m., November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas. Investigation was immediately instituted in an effort to identify and apprehend the person responsible for this assassination.

At approximately 2:00 p.m., information was received that a suspicious person had entered the Texas Theater which is located about six tenths of a mile from the four hundred block of East 10th Street in Dallas where J. D. Tippitt, a Dallas Police Department patrolman had been shot and killed about 1:13 p.m. ? Officers of the Dallas Police Department and FBI Agents converged on the theater and took into custody Lee Harvey Oswald who resisted arrest and attempted to fire a .38 caliber revolver which was taken from his person.

State complaints were filed on November 22, 1963, charging Oswald with the murder of President Kennedy and Patrolman Tippitt.

Investigation has established that Oswald was employed at the Texas School Book Depository which has been identified as the building from which the fatal shots were fired at the President. A fellow employee stated he took Oswald to work on the morning of November 22, 1963, at which time Oswald was carrying a package of sufficient length to contain a disassembled rifle and which Oswald said consisted of curtain rods. Oswald was observed on the fifth floor of the building in which he was employed at approximately 11:50 a.m., November 22, 1963. Oswald was again observed inside the building shortly after the shooting but could not be found thereafter. Another fellow employee stated shots were fired "right over his head" while this employee was watching the car occupied by President Kennedy passing in front of the building. A witness to the shooting stated that the shots were fired by

a white man from a window on the sixth floor of the building in which Oswald was employed. This witness later selected Oswald in a line-up as the person who resembled the individual he observed fire the rifle from the window. The witness could not make a positive identification. Mrs. Earlene Roberts, 1026 North Beckley Street in Dallas, stated Oswald, using the name of O. H. Lee, had lived at her residence since October 14, 1963, and at about 1:00 p.m., November 22, 1963, came to her residence, picked up a jacket and left hurriedly.

A 6.5 caliber Italian carbine rifle with a four-power scope was found on the sixth floor of the building in which Oswald was employed and from which the shots at the President were fired. Investigation by our Chicago Office has revealed that a weapon of this description and identical serial number was sold to one A. Hidell, Post Office Box 2015, Dallas, Texas, on March 20, 1963, for $21.45. This Post Office Box at that time was rented by Mrs. Lee H. Oswald, believed to be the mother of suspect. Oswald, at the time of his arrest, had in his possession a Selective Service card in the name of Alex Hidell. The recovered rifle as well as the .38 caliber revolver taken from Oswald, were immediately brought to the FBI Laboratory for examination.

It was determined that a bullet found on one of the stretchers at the hospital following the admittance of President Kennedy had been fired from the rifle referred to above. Examination also identified two bullet fragments found in the Presidential car as having been fired from this same weapon. Other examinations in the FBI Laboratory are continuing.

A brown paper bag possibly used to carry the rifle was found near the window on the sixth floor of the building from which the shots were fired. A latent fingerprint developed on this bag by the FBI Identification Division was identified with the left index finger impression of Lee Harvey Oswald.

Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

With respect to background information concerning Oswald, his birth date has been verified at New Orleans, Louisiana, as October 18, 1939. He attended high school at Fort Worth, Texas, and according to records of the Office of Naval Intelligence, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at Dallas, Texas, on October 24, 1956, for a three-year term. He was released to inactive duty on September 11, 1959, but his military obligation continued until December 8, 1962.

According to information received from the State Department, he indicated to the American Embassy in Moscow on October 31, 1959, that he wished to renounce his American citizenship. He claimed at the time that he had been a radar operator in the Marine Corps and had told Soviet officials that if he were granted Soviet citizenship, he would make known information concerning the Marine Corps, which was in his possession. On this occasion he declared, "I am a Marxist." The United Press on November 15, 1959, reported that Soviet authorities had refused to grant Oswald Soviet citizenship, but would permit him to live in Russia as a resident alien.

Office of Naval Intelligence reported that Oswald had been undesirably discharged from the Marine Corps Reserve on August 17, 1960.

On January 30, 1961, Oswald corresponded with the then Secretary of the Navy John B. Connally, with respect to his undesirable discharge requesting that appropriate action be taken to change his status and indicating he intended to return to this country. This was followed by a letter dated March 22, 1962, directed to Assistant Director of Personnel, Brigadier General Tompkins, United States Marine Corps, at which time he made a similar complaint.

Information has likewise been received from the Office of Senator John G. Tower (Republican - Texas) that during 1961 Oswald had requested that Senator Tower intercede in his behalf with Soviet authorities, so that they would allow him to return to the United States.

According to information received from the State Department on May 17, 1962, Oswald and his wife, a Soviet citizen, had been granted exit permits to leave Russia, and the State Department had given approval for their travel to the United States accompanied by an infant child.

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Oswald was interviewed by Special Agents of this Bureau at Fort Worth, Texas, on June 26, 1962, at which time he was curt, sullen and arrogant. He declined to answer questions as to why he made the trip to Russia or his experiences while there. He indicated that he had been employed as a sheet metal worker in a television factory and admired the Russian form of Government. He claimed familiarity with the theories of Karl Marx, but denied being a member of the Communist Party or having renounced his United States citizenship. According to Oswald, the Soviets never attempted to obtain information from him nor did he make any deals with the Soviets in order to obtain permission to return to the United States. He disclaimed any affiliation with Soviet intelligence.

Upon reinterview on August 16, 1962, he acknowledged recently visiting the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D. C., but indicated his visit was solely to register his wife's current address as required by Soviet law. He again denied requesting revocation of his United States citizenship or allegiance to the Soviet Government.

According to information developed by this Bureau, Oswald was arrested on August 9, 1963, for disturbing the peace in New Orleans, Louisiana, as a result of distributing a pamphlet for an organization known as "Fair Play for Cuba." He pleaded guilty and elected to pay a fee of $10.

Oswald was interviewed on August 10, 1962, at which time he indicated he was unemployed and had been in New Orleans for approximately four months. While there he read literature distributed by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee which he considered not to be communist dominated or controlled. He corresponded with the Committee at 799 Broadway, New York City, and paid a $5.00 membership fee. He received a membership card in the New Orleans chapter dated June 6, 1963, signed A. J. Hidell.

The Fair Play for Cuba Committee is a pro-Castro organization founded during the Spring of 1960, whose function is to propagandize the Castro regime.

The Central Intelligence Agency advised that on October 1, 1963, an extremely sensitive source had reported that an individual identified himself as Lee Oswald, who contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City

inquiring as to any messages. Special Agents of this Bureau, who have conversed with Oswald in Dallas, Texas, have observed photographs of the individual referred to above and have listened to a recording of his voice. These Special Agents are of the opinion that the above-referred-to individual was not Lee Harvey Oswald.

A highly confidential source of this Bureau advised that an individual identifying himself as Oswald on November 18, 1963, was in contact with the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D. C., at which time he referred to a recent meeting with Comrade Kostin at the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City. This individual indicated that he originally intended to visit the Embassy in Havana, Cuba, where he would have had time to complete his business, but that he had been unable to do so. He furnished his address as Box 625, Dallas, Texas, and claimed to be the husband of Marina Nikolaevna Oswald, a Soviet citizen and father of Audrey Marina Oswald, born October 20, 1963, at Dallas, Texas.

Oswald during previous interviews with FBI Agents claimed to have married his wife, Marina Nikolaevna Oswald, nee Prusakova, at Minsk, Russia, on April 30, 1961. He likewise claimed an American passport, number D002533, issued at New Orleans, Louisiana, on June 25, 1963, for proposed travel of three months to one year as a tourist to England, France, Germany, Holland, USSR, Finland, Italy, and Poland. He indicated an intention to depart from New Orleans during the latter part of 1963.

Additional information developed by this Bureau indicated one Lee Oswald during September, 1962, was a subscriber to "The Worker" an east coast communist newspaper.